**NTPC entering into power distribution**

851. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to enter in the power distribution business in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received the proposal from NTPC in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER ( SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

( b) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Board has approved formation of a wholly owned subsidiary company to take up Electricity Distribution business. Accordingly, NTPC Electric Supply Company Ltd. (NESCL) has been incorporated on 21st August, 2002, with its registered office in New Delhi. The Ministry of Power is supporting NTPC in its efforts to enter the distribution business with a view to accelerating distribution reforms and turn around of the power sector.

**Status of APDRP in ANDHRA PRADESH**

852. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) to assist the States in Power Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of APDRP in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER ( SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Power has initiated large-scale reforms in the power sector. Under the reforms programme, the

Ministry of Power has launched the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2000-01 as an important step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses and restoring commercial viability of the power sector. Distribution reforms are expected to bring out the desired changes in the performance of the State Electricity Boards through the adoption of best technical and commercial practices in the operation and management of distribution circles.

(c) APTRANSCO entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ministry of Power on 29.5.2002 for implementing the APDRP in Andhra Pradesh. The circles of Eluru, Warangal, Tirupati were identified for developing as centre of excellence in the State. Schemes worth Rs.99.6 crore were approved and a sum of Rs.49.8 crore was released for metering and distribution transformers under sub-transmission and distribution in the FY 2000-01. Additionally schemes worth Rs.95.12 crore were also approved for R&M of Vijaywada TPS and Kothagudem TPS and R&U of HEP. An amount of Rs. 45.03 crores was released for this purpose in FY 2000-01.

In the first six months of the year 2002-03, a total number of 22 schemes have been sanctioned under APDRP costing Rs. 974.09 crores. An amount of Rs. 39.07 crores has been released on 4th April, 2002.

**International Conference for Energy Conservation in Delhi**

853. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an international conference on strategies for energy conservation was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the strategies devised and recommended for energy conservation; and

(c) the action taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The International Conference on "Strategies for Energy Conservation in the New Millennium" was held on the